



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

ROBERT MORRIS
CHAIR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
GOVERNOR'S TRAFFIC SAFETY
ADVISORY COMMISSION
LANSING

(Approved)
Minutes of the Meeting held February 23, 2007
8:30 – 10:30 a.m.
4000 Collins Road, Lansing, Michigan

MEMBERS PRESENT

Robert Morris, Chair
Michael Prince
Linda Scarpetta
Anne Corgan
F/Lt. Thad Peterson
Pamela Hall
Sheriff Al Byam
Chief David Stamm
John Friend
Steven Puuri

REPRESENTING

Office of the Governor
Office of Highway Safety Planning (OHSP)
Department of Community Health (MDCH)
Department of State (MDOS)
Department of State Police (MSP)
Office of Services to the Aging (OSA)
Local Representative – Michigan Sheriffs' Association (MSA)
Local Representative – Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police (MACP)
Department of Transportation (MDOT)
Local Representative – County Road Commission Association

STAFF

Deb Sonnenberg

MEMBERS EXCUSED

Dwight Sinila
Department of Education (MD0E)

GUESTS

Bob Lariviere
Jack Peet
Mouhamad Naboulsi
Dave Morena
Homer Smith
Betty Mercer
Jack Benac
Carol Reagan
Jon Reincke
Kimberly Lariviere
Jason Gutting
Mark Bott
Bob Felt
Michael Irwin
Sandy Liddle
Anne Readett
Debbie Savage
Steve Schreier
David Wallace
Lawrence Hummel
Eric Bombery

REPRESENTING

AAA Michigan
AAA Michigan
Applied Computer Tech
FHWA
MADD Michigan
MCG/LLC
MDIT
MDOS
MDOT
MDOT
MDOT
MDOT
MDOT
MDOT Office of Communications
Michigan Center for Truck Safety
Office of Financial & Insurance Services
OHSP
OHSP
OHSP
Prosecuting Attorneys Assn of Michigan
VBCRC
WATS

Robert Morris, Governor's Office • Michael Prince, Office of Highway Safety Planning • Linda Scarpetta, Community Health
Dwight Sinila, Education • Anne Corgan, State • F/Lt. Thad Peterson, State Police • John C. Friend, Transportation •
Pamela Hall, Office of Services to the Aging • Sheriff Allen Byam, Local Representative
Steven Puuri, Local Representative • Chief David Stamm, Local Representative

Chair Robert Morris called the meeting to order at 8:40 a.m.. A Roll Call of the GTSAC members was taken establishing a quorum was present.

Public Comment/Announcement Items

None

GTSAC Meeting Minutes

Chair Morris entertained a motion for approval of the minutes of the GTSAC meeting of December 15, 2006. Moved by Sheriff Byam, with support from Chief Stamm, the motion carried.

Chair's Reports/Updates – Robert Morris

Mr. Morris requested anyone and everyone to submit ideas, issues, concerns, and possible action items to him or another commissioner for the Commission to address.

Two traffic safety event calendars were shared with the commissioners. One calendar was from the Office of Highway Safety Planning, and the other one from the National Highway Transportation Administration. Mr. Morris encouraged everyone to share the dates and campaigns with their department directors and public affairs offices to provide support in promoting those traffic safety campaigns and events.

GTSAC Commissioner Updates

- **Department of Community Health (MDCH) – Linda Scarpetta**
The MDCH is administering a bike helmet distribution project again this year. This includes conducting bike safety events whereby helmets are handed out.
- **Department of Education (MDOE) – Dwight Sinila (absent)**
No report
- **Department of State (DOS) – Anne Corgan**
The Department of State (DOS) continues its work on young driver issues recognizing that parents do play a critical role in supervising young drivers during the probationary years.

The DOS is developing a motorcycle campaign to continue throughout the summer. More information about this will be provided at the April meeting.

The DOS has been seeking out different technologies to assist in their driver safety efforts. One such technology is utilizing an on-line defensive driver course consisting of a 4-hour version and a 90-minute version. Action Teams interested to know more about this program should contact Ms. Corgan to schedule a demonstration.

Video screens are now in place at many branch offices whereby driver/traffic safety messages can be displayed. DOS has an 8-minute spot running each hour. Ms. Corgan stated this medium is available for other agency messages as well. The messages don't have to be the same at all locations, they can be made area-specific.

- **Department of State Police (MSP) – F/Lt. Thad Peterson**
The Michigan State Police is working to fill advanced crash investigation classes. Agencies should contact F/Lt. Thad Peterson if they are interested in enrolling officers in this class.

MSP and MDOT are working together on a "Quick Clearance" initiative to coordinate the speedy removal of blockages (accident vehicles, disabled vehicles, animals, etc.,) from roadways to minimize secondary accidents from occurring.

The MSP is in the process of realigning areas of the department to provide more efficient and streamlined services. One phase of the realignment that is now in effect has been to combine the Traffic Services Section with the Motor Carrier Division into a new Traffic Safety Division.

➤ **Department of Transportation (MDOT) – John Friend**

Mr. Friend reported that each year MDOT goes through a process to identify their next five-year construction projects. This year, for the first time, engineers involved in the process were asked to put emphasis on using the Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP) as a guide for safety investments.

➤ **Office of Services to the Aging (OSA) – Pamela Hall**

Ms. Hall reported that the Office of Services to the Aging took part in the "Let's Get Moving Coalition Day" on February 14, 2007. The purpose of the meeting was to educate legislators on the importance of public transportation. Because this event was held on Valentine's Day, legislators were presented with candy hearts that read "Transportation 24/7".

The OSA continues to be concerned when they hear about a senior being involved in a traffic accident that results in a tragedy to a senior or another person. They are currently looking at funding a transportation/mobility resource center where a senior can get information and learn about transportation options. Last month OSA staff met with UMTRI to discuss the aging network for possible collaboration and partnership on some of the projects they are working on.

➤ **Office of Highway Safety Planning (OHSP) – Michael Prince**

Mr. Prince reported that the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) recently released a state-by-state report of safety belt use. The report ranks Michigan's 94.3 percent safety belt use rate as second only to Washington State. Mr. Prince acknowledged the efforts of everyone in the room and all of law enforcement for this success.

NHTSA has selected Michigan to be part of a 10-state case study on safety belt use. Mr. Jim Hedlund, retired from NHTSA and now a private contractor, met with OHSP staff and interviewed them recently on their safety belt program project.

OHSP, in partnership with Michigan NETS and the GTSAC Other Driver Behavior Action Team, is currently planning a "Wake up Michigan Symposium" focusing on drowsy driving. This event is scheduled for September 20, 2007, at the Steelcase offices in Grand Rapids. More information will be provided at a later date.

The OHSP staff has begun planning for FY08. In addition to continuing support for the national Click-it-or Ticket and Over the Limit, Under Arrest mobilizations, OHSP will focus on addressing under 21 KA crashes, HBD KA crashes, KA crashes during the summer, and motorcycle fatalities. A special focus will also be placed on teen belt use, pickup truck drivers, and nighttime belt use. OHSP staff is currently working with their partners to develop strategies to address these and other traffic safety issues.

The GTSAC Web site has been reorganized. Each action team now has its own page to include meeting dates, minutes, etc., and includes a link to the team's Action Plan. The Web site will be updated continually to provide the most current information.

➤ **Local Representation – Steven Puuri (Co Rd. Comm. Assn)**

Mr. Puuri expressed the common goal of all the Action Team Strategic Plans is communication and outreach. He expressed that major progress has been made in communication outreach through the County Road Association workshops. Mr. Puuri had the opportunity to share the GTSAC video and Annual Report with association members and express the importance of their participation in the various GTSAC action teams to assist with traffic safety initiatives. He stressed that since 60 percent of crashes occur on county roads, the county engineers should be involved. Mr. Puuri is addressing individual county groups at their regional meetings to share information about the GTSAC and encourage county commissioners to participate in the GTSAC action teams. Dave Morena and Steve Puuri suggested an organized approach to traffic safety may be beneficial to gain county commissioners' and engineers' interest and participation.

➤ **Local Representation – Chief David Stamm (MACP)**

Chief Stamm reported that the MACP conference recently held was a success and that many awards for traffic safety initiatives were issued.

Chief Stamm stated he met with Chief Doreen Olko of Auburn Hills and provided her with an overview of the Quick Clearance initiative. Chief Olko indicated that Oakland County would be very supportive of this initiative.

In light of the budget issues MSP is going through, Chief Stamm encouraged all agencies to contact the legislature to stress how important funding to MSP is. Many of the services MSP provides support the local agencies also. Loss of funding for MSP would have a major impact on traffic safety in Michigan. Mr. Morris supported this effort and agreed all should make it a priority to address their elected officials for support of MSP.

➤ **Local Representation – Sheriff Al Byam (MSA)**

Sheriff Byam reported that he was invited to be a part of a group which addresses issues concerning persons with Parkinson's disease. One issue mentioned at the meeting he attended, was the concern of persons with this disease being perceived as impaired drivers by officers. Sheriff Byam expressed that the group would like to see training developed for enforcement members to assist in the recognition of medical conditions vs. impaired driving. Sheriff Byam requested if anyone knows of an organization which has car tags or other medically identifiable items for vehicles to please let him know.

F/Lt. Thad Peterson commented that current training for enforcement officers includes a segment on identifying items in a vehicle to substantiate impaired driving vs. medical conditions, and also encourages the officers' use of common sense in these situations.

Mr. Prince offered to check with OHSP's national partners to see if any of them have training programs to assist with identifying medical crises vs. impaired driving.

Legislative Report – Sgt. Matt Bolger

A summary report of the most current legislation concerning traffic safety was provided in Sergeant Bolger's absence.

Action Team Reports

➤ **Senior Mobility Kim Lariviere**

Ms. Lariviere reported that the Lansing State Journal is doing a year-long series on the elderly in Michigan. Action team members met with the State Journal staff and shared the team's initiatives. Action team members are now included in the paper's planning meetings.

➤ **Other Driver Behavior – F/Lt. Thad Peterson**

Lieutenant Peterson provided a copy of the Michigan Driver Behavior Strategies committee's Action Plan, highlighting the Action Plan's main focus is on negligent driving, distraction, and drowsiness. Lieutenant Peterson encouraged everyone to attend to the Wake up Michigan Symposium on September 20, 2007 in Grand Rapids.

➤ **TRCC – Mike Prince**

Mr. Prince reported that the \$1.2 million funding received from NHTSA last year, combined with additional traffic safety funds, assisted with many of the projects identified in the June 2006 TRCC Strategic Plan such as:

- Funding of an EMS assessment
- Development of an EMS database
- Continuation of the Secretary of State 10-day conviction project
- Further development of the Crash Process Redesign project, including sanitization of the UD-10

Plans are currently underway to expand electronic data capture among law enforcement agencies across the state.

The Full TRCC met last September and determined that it would be beneficial to convene a subcommittee made up of crash data users who would meet on a regular basis to review current issues and topics that might affect the data user community. The Crash Data User Group was formed and is currently meeting every month. They have developed a list of proposed projects for review and approval by the TRCC Executive Committee. If approved, these projects will be included in this year's Section 408 application.

The TRCC Executive Group is preparing the application for year #2 of Section 408 funding which includes the creation of a "progress report" of the activities that have taken place in the past year in support of the TRCC Strategic Plan. The 408 application is due to NHTSA by June 15, 2007.

Traffic Crash Facts Query Tool – Steve Schreier

Mr. Schreier demonstrated the enhanced Traffic Crash Facts Query Tool and outlined the benefits to agencies in their traffic safety efforts.

MADD – Teen Drunk Driving Video – Homer Smith

Mr. Smith played the Teen Drunk Driving video which was produced by actual teens and provides a very powerful message about drunk driving. This video is copyrighted so it cannot be copied. It can be purchased, however, from the MADD Michigan office or Homer Smith for the cost of \$6.

Driver Distraction Due to New Automotive & Cellular Telephone Services & Features

Mouhamad Naboulsi, Applied Computer Technologies

Mr. Naboulsi presented an overview of his company's traffic safety product and stated the company's goal is to gain support and legislative backing.

Quick Clearance – Jason Gutting & John Friend

John Friend and Jason Gutting expressed their desire to establish a partnership with GTSAC members to join in on the Quick Clearance project. Legislation recently introduced addresses state highways only. Mr. Friend believes this initiative would benefit local agencies also and encourages them to join in this initiative.

Michigan Traffic Safety Summit Update – Anne Readett

Ms. Readett reported that registrations for the Summit are very robust in coming in. With participants, speakers, and exhibitors, there are nearly 340 people signed on thus far, and that number continues to grow daily. There are six general sessions and 35 workshops participants can choose from so there is something for everyone. The last day for registrations is March 5. After that date, only on-site registrations will be processed.

Other Business

None

GTSAC Administrative Items

- Handout – 2006-07 OHSP Media Relations Calendar
- Handout – 2007 NHTSA Meetings and Events Calendar
- Handout – 2006 Michigan Truck Safety Commission Annual Report

Meeting Adjourned at 11:14 a.m.

2007 Meeting Schedule

All meetings begin at 8:30 a.m. in the Collins Centre Presentation room unless stated otherwise.

- April 20, 2007
- June 22, 2007
- August 24, 2007
- October 26, 2007
- December 14, 2007